



NRC NEWS

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NRC TO MEET WITH DOMINION ENERGY OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS SAFETY PERFORMANCE AT SURRY NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with Dominion Energy officials on Thursday, April 8, to discuss the results of NRC's annual assessment of safety performance at the Surry nuclear power plant near Surry, Virginia.

The meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. in the Surry Government Center, 45 School Street in Surry. The public is invited to observe the meeting, and NRC officials will be available before the conclusion of the meeting to answer any questions.

A letter from the NRC to Dominion Energy addresses plant safety performance during the previous year and forms the basis for the meeting discussions. The letter states that, overall, Surry operated safely but the NRC will conduct additional inspections during the coming year beyond those normally done. The NRC has already conducted a supplemental inspection related to a past situation in Unit 1 where emergency AC power was unavailable (had it been needed) and is conducting a supplemental inspection of circumstances associated with previous unplanned scrams (automatic shutdowns) in excess of regulatory allowances in Unit 2.

In addition, the NRC said the utility was notified this past February 2 of a preliminary finding related to mitigation of fires which was of low to moderate safety significance in Unit 1 and of low safety significance in Unit 2. The agency said, based upon a final significance determination of these events, additional inspections may be warranted.

The letter is available from Region II Public Affairs and on the NRC web site at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/sur_2003q4.pdf. It says the NRC will conduct inspections at Surry during the coming year which include reactor pressure head lower head penetration nozzles, reactor containment sump blockage and spent fuel material control and accounting. The agency will also continue inspections of the implementation of security orders and newly developed portions of the plant's security program.

Current performance indicators for the two units at the Surry plant are available at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/SUR1/sur1_chart.html and www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/SUR2/sur2_chart.html

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